

❖ SCENE



❖ ECO

CAROLING **WOW**
AMS, **Newest**
AIGC **nature**
in song **features**
B1 **B6**



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Happy Holidays from your friends at the Mad River Union

MAD RIVER UNION

VOL. 3, No. 13 ❖ 12 PAGES ❖ WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2015 ❖ EST. 2013 ❖ \$1



COMEBACK KID The Western Snowy Plover is doing better, but has a long way to go.

PHOTO BY LUKE EBERHART-PHILLIPS

Plovers pick up

Paul Mann

MAD RIVER UNION

HUMBOLDT - The North Coast population of the Western Snowy Plover is growing at a steady rate, but breeding is thin and remains jeopardized by multiple threats, including human impacts and natural predators like crows and seagulls.

The breeding population has shown a steady increase since

PLOVER ❖ A4

County braces for lawsuit

Daniel Mintz

MAD RIVER UNION

HUMBOLDT - After fielding commentary on the latest draft of the county's commercial medical marijuana ordinance, the Board of

Supervisors is considering the probability and effects of lawsuits.

A Planning Commission-approved version of the ordinance drew some strong public opposition at the Dec. 15 supervisors meeting. At

issue is the commission's decision not to cap the total number of permits for commercial cultivation, the removal of a prohibition on new grows on Timber Production Zone par-

POT ❖ A3



DOGGING THE ARCATA BOTTOM

TO THE DOGS and the humans who walk two-and-a-half miles every week, the hour-long "Pack Walk" on the Arcata Bottom is an invigorating way to spend Saturday mornings. Organized by Redwood Pals Rescue, the group meets at St. Mary's School at 8:30 a.m., then strolls among the pastoral Bottoms' barns and farm houses. For more information, or to join the Pack Walk, contact redwoodpalsrescue@gmail.com. KLH | UNION

Central Ave. project to go to bid

Jack Durham

MAD RIVER UNION

MCKINLEYVILLE - The final plans for a Central Avenue pedestrian safety improvement project got the green light last week from the McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee (McKMAC), paving the way for the project to go out to bid so construction can begin late this spring.

At its Dec. 16 meeting, the McKMAC voted unanimously in favor of the grant-funded

CENTRAL ❖ A3

Arcata's rock quarry cover-up



RUBBLE STREWN Arcata's remote rock quarry, now in rehab. PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF ARCATA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Kevin L. Hoover

MAD RIVER UNION

JACOBY CREEK FOREST - The City of Arcata acquired the \$2.7 million Barnum Tract in 2003. it added 285 acres to the now 1,200-acre Jacoby Creek Forest.

The expansion came with a white elephant - a 15-acre rock quarry. The quarry came with uncertain commercial potential, a raft of regulations, a flurry of federal fees and an abundance of naturally occurring asbestos locked in its ultramafic rock.

A reclamation plan that came with the quarry was worse than useless - it was destructive. The brutal method by which the area had been cleared for mining - by simply

bulldozing aside massive heaps of topsoil - was to be reversed by just pushing everything back in place over the exposed rock quarry.

But much of the moved soil has since grown back in with Douglas fir and redwood trees which would have to be taken out at great noise and expense.

"At this point, we'd have to cut acres of timber, which would expand the disturbed area," said Environmental Services Director Mark Andre. "So we didn't set back the clock by having to cut down all the trees."

Instead, soil was imported from other city projects, including 5,000 cubic yards from the Foster Avenue

QUARRY ❖ B6



A VERY META CHRISTMAS
SPIRITED SEASON Arcata City Hall staff and Northcoast Childrens' Services Head Start collaborated again this year to make Christmas morning magic for underprivileged Arcata families. Five families were helped out with food, gift cards, Christmas gifts and other assistance. City Hall departments pitched in with donations, and designated shoppers did the rest. Left, City Hall staff with bountiful gifts. Above, staff and friends of the Mad River Union gathered at Six Rivers Brewery last Friday night for the newspaper's annual Holiday and/or Christmas Party, where a merry time was had by all. Happy Holidays!

PHOTOS BY KLH & MF | UNION

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The Mad River Union, (ISSN 1091-1510), is published weekly (Wednesdays) by Kevin L. Hoover and Jack Durham, 791 Eighth St. (Jacoby's Storehouse), Suite 8, Arcata, CA 95521. Periodicals Postage Paid at Arcata, CA.

Subscriptions: \$35/year

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Mad River Union, 791 Eighth St., Suite 8, Arcata, CA 95521

Deadlines**Letters to the Editor & Opinion columns** (signed, with a phone number): Noon Friday**Press Releases:** 5 p.m. Friday **Ads:** Contact Ad Dept.**Legal Notices:** 5 p.m. Friday**Press releases:** (707) 826-7000 news@madriverunion.com**Letters to the Editor/Opinion:** (707) 826-7000 opinion@madriverunion.com**Advertising:** (707) 826-7535 ads@madriverunion.com**Entertainment:** (707) 826-7000 scene@madriverunion.com**Legal notices:** (707) 826-7000 legals@madriverunion.com**Pets:** (707) 826-7000 animals@madriverunion.com**Jack D. Durham**, Editor & Publisher editor@madriverunion.com**Kevin L. Hoover**, Editor-at-Large, Publisher opinion@madriverunion.com**Lauraine Leblanc**, Scene Editor, Production Manager & Special Projects Coordinator scene@madriverunion.com**Jada C. Brotman**, Advertising Manager ads@madriverunion.com**Paul Mann, Daniel Mintz, Janine Volkmar** Reporters**Matthew Filar**, Photographer**Karrie Wallace**, Distribution Manager karrie@madriverunion.com**Louise Brotz**, Subscription Outreach Coordinator**Marty E. Burdette**, Belle of the Ball

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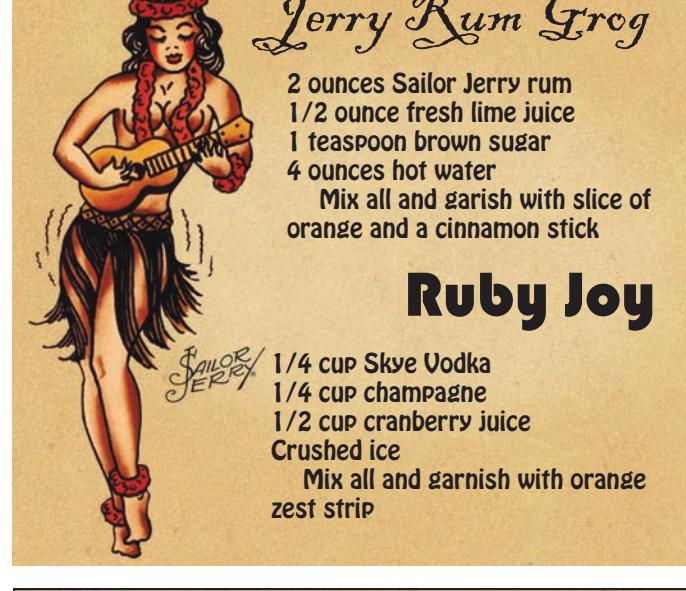
**SANDY'S SWEET SENDOFF**

SANDYLAND Dry eyes were few at the sendoff for former Arcata Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sandy Scott last Thursday night in the Plaza View Room in Jacoby's Storehouse. Above, Scott thanks friends and associates for their help during her years of service with the chamber, and bids them farewell. Top right, Mark Loughmiller, Karen Diemer, Scott and Jeff Schmidt. Right, Scott with a garland of cannabis-oriented terms bestowed on her by a group of female farmers. Scott will be succeeded by incoming Executive Director Joellen Clark-Peterson. PHOTOS BY KLH | UNION



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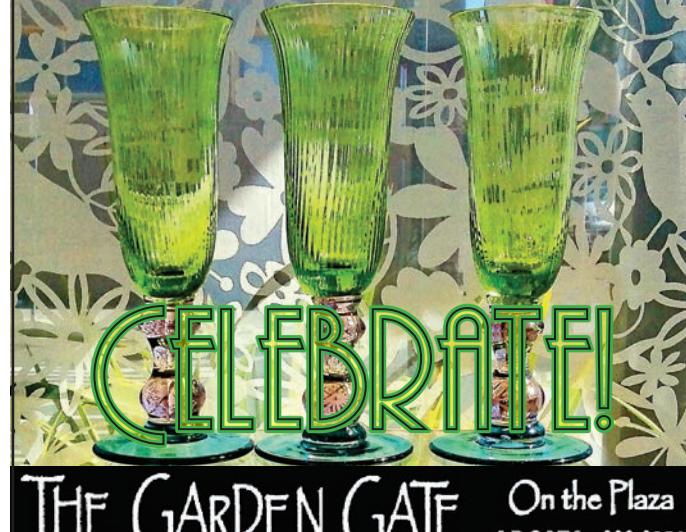
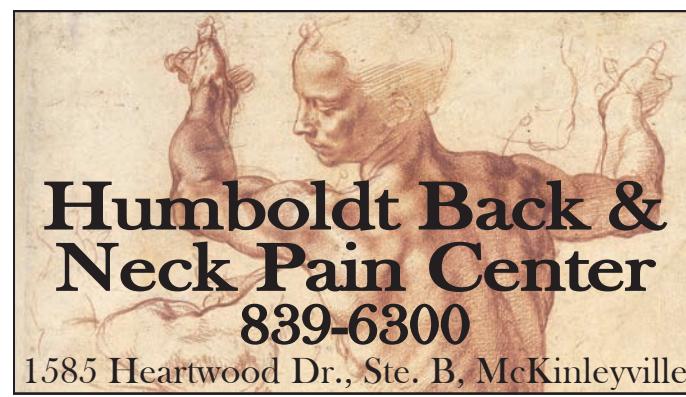
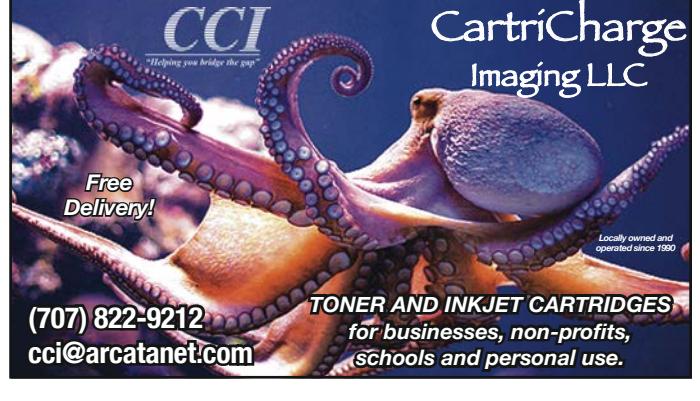
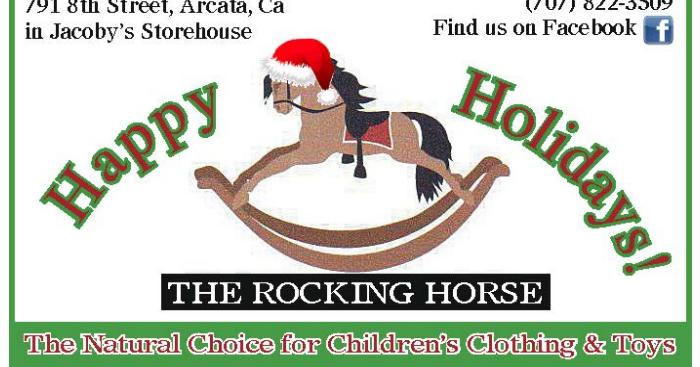
**Jerry Rum Grog**

2 ounces Sailor Jerry rum
1/2 ounce fresh lime juice
1 teaspoon brown sugar
4 ounces hot water
Mix all and garnish with slice of orange and a cinnamon stick

Ruby Joy

1/4 cup Skye Vodka
1/4 cup champagne
1/2 cup cranberry juice
Crushed ice
Mix all and garnish with orange zest strip

WOOD TURNERS The Redwood Coast Woodturners (Red-CoW) will meet Thursday, Jan. 7 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at McKinleyville Middle School, 2285 Central Ave., McKinleyville. This meeting will focus on turning small projects (pens, bottle stoppers, bracelets, etc.). For more information call (707) 499-9569.



❖ MCKINLEYVILLE

McKMAC wants caps on grows**Jack Durham****MAD RIVER UNION****MCKINLEYVILLE** —

Mack Town's advisory committee wants a cap placed on the number of medical marijuana farms that will be allowed under the county's proposed growing ordinance. The committee also wants the county to pursue a funding mechanism that will pay to enforce the proposed law, and wants the Board of Supervisors to review how much cannabis growing will be allowed in Timber Production Zones (TPZ).

The McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee (McKMAC) debated the Humboldt County Medical Marijuana Land Use Ordinance at its Dec. 16 meeting and agreed to forward its recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

In discussing the draft ordinance, McKMAC members were mainly concerned with the watershed impacts of marijuana growing, noting that there's an enormous amount of damage taking place in Humboldt's hills, with waterways being sucked dry by industrial grows. McKMAC Chair Ben Shepherd said that estimates

peg the number of marijuana grows in Humboldt somewhere between 3,000 to 8,000. As for the exact number, "It's hard to tell," said Shepherd, who also sits on the Humboldt County Planning Commission, which approved the draft ordinance.

"We have a significant amount of environmental damage taking place now," Shepherd told the McKMAC.

The goal of the ordinance is to try to get existing growers into compliance and follow some environmental standards. For example, the ordinance requires the growers to have grading permits and water permits. Water storage is required so that grows don't suck local creeks dry and endanger fish habitat, as is taking place now.

McKMAC member Craig Tucker said he was concerned that the ordinance, as written, could be challenged in court. "I think what the Planning Commission came up with is fodder for litigation," Tucker said.

Tucker noted that the county approved a declaration of negative envi-

ronmental impact when it started working on the ordinance, which has since been expanded to allow even more grows.

But Shepherd had a different take on the issue. There are already thousands of grows in Humboldt County. Under the proposed ordinance, those existing grows would have to come into compliance. They would need permits and would have to comply with a variety of standards intended to protect the watersheds. Shepherd explained that this process would reduce the impact of the existing grows, rather than increase the impact.

Another issue of concern is whether the growers would be willing to comply. It was noted that many of the existing growers are now outlaws who are flaunting the laws and risking jail or prison time. When a land use ordinance kicks in, will these same growers try to comply?

The McKMAC made its recommendations, but shied away from giving specific numbers regarding the cap or grow amounts on TPZ land. You can email the McKMAC at mckinleyvilletmac@gmail.com.

COUNTY APPOINTMENTS The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors on Dec. 15 appointed Cheryl Dillingham to the position of interim County Administrative Officer (CAO) and Connie Beck to the position of interim Director of the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS). Dillingham will replace current CAO Phillip Smith-Hanes, who submitted his letter of resignation to the board Dec. 14. Smith-Hanes' last day with the county will be Jan. 29. Beck will replace DHHS Director Phillip R. Crandall, who retires Dec. 28 after 31 years of service. Dillingham has worked

for the county for more than 28 years and served as Assistant CAO since 2012. Beck has worked for DHHS for 20 years, the last three as Assistant Director, Administration. Dillingham and Beck will serve in their posts until the Board makes permanent appointments.

THE BUMPERS The McKinleyville Low Vision Support group, The Bumpers, will not meet in December. The group will resume meetings in January. For information contact Doug Rose at (707) 839-0588 or dougrose@suddenlink.net.

Pot | Ordinance might be challenged❖ **FROM A1**

cells and the scale of permissiveness for per-parcel grow sizes.

Representatives of environmental groups told supervisors that the ordinance is now legally unfit for the type of environmental review accompanying it.

The ordinance's environmental review is a mitigated negative declaration, which assures that environmental impacts will be addressed through implementation of the ordinance.

But Larry Glass of the Northcoast Environmental Center said the changes to the draft made by the Planning Commission render the mitigated negative declaration as inadequate.

"My experience tells me that there's no way this would fly as a negative (declaration) — there's so much more environmental impact that would be unleashed with this ordinance's passing, as it's written now," he told supervisors, adding that an original, staff-recommended draft would probably be appropriate.

"But this is blowing it wide open," Glass continued. "I think we need to reel this into reality if you want to do a negative (declaration)."

The staff-recommended version focused on outdoor production on parcels above five acres, setting a 2,000 square foot grow area as the trigger for requiring discretionary conditional use permits.

The planning commission's version introduces smaller-parcel grows and indoor grows of up to 22,000 square feet in agricultural-exclusive and commercial/industrial areas. Mirroring state law, the commission's draft also allows grows of up to an acre in size with conditional use permits.

Natalynne DeLapp of the Environmental Protection Information Center said the negative declaration was based on not allowing new grows in timber production areas. She added that her group believes the removal of the prohibition could violate state law and necessitates a re-circulation of the negative declaration.

Jen Kalt of Humboldt Baykeeper recommended capping the total number of permits that would be approved during the ordinance's initial implementation phase.

Representatives of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the National Marine Fisheries Service also had

concerns about environmental impacts.

But for years, the environmental damage caused by the county's current, unregulated cultivation scenario has been described as catastrophic.

The draft ordinance strives to control medical marijuana production through zoning and permitting requirements, directing cultivation out of environmentally-sensitive areas and into areas appropriately zoned for it.

The commission's decision to not cap total permits and to remove the ban on new Timber Production Zone grows was based on the concern that if the ordinance excludes too many growers, unregulated cultivation will continue and an environmentally-callous black market will remain undefeated.

Supervisor Ryan Sundberg said measures like capping the number of permits will hinder compliance and he was unfazed by inferences of legal action.

"Hopefully, we'll get some kind of analysis from county counsel that says, 'Here's how far you can go, here's how far we think is safe,'" he said. "I expect this to be challenged and as long as we are safe, I don't have a problem with being challenged — I wouldn't want to back down from any of this because someone's threatening a lawsuit, it just doesn't scare me."

But Supervisor Mark Lovelace favored producing an ordinance that doesn't draw litigation.

"It appears to me that the issue for us is not whether or not this would survive a challenge but whether it would avoid a challenge," he said.

Lovelace added that a lawsuit against the ordinance would derail compliance with a March 1 state deadline for enacting local regulations. But a few days after the meeting, the deadline was described by state legislators as an error that will soon be voided.

Supervisors asked county counsel and planning staff to analyze legal issues at the next hearing.

Several residents involved with marijuana cultivation and advocacy also commented, saying that limiting the size of grows will reduce impacts and preserve Humboldt County's tradition of quality production.

Supervisors will delve into the content of the ordinance at their Jan. 5 meeting.

**TRINIDAD FIRE**

HOUSE DESTROYED A residence and a motorhome went up in flames Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 15 on the 600 block of Patrick's Point Drive north of Trinidad. Trinidad residents are coming together to help out the residents who were displaced by the fire. Anyone wishing to donate money to help with relocation expenses or clothing may email juliefulkerson@mac.com. PHOTO BY JEROME SIMON

❖ **DIESEL SPILL****Big Lagoon reopens to fishing****Paul Mann****MAD RIVER UNION**

BIG LAGOON — Absent a threat to public safety, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has reopened Big Lagoon near Trinidad to fishing and shellfish harvesting.

An overturned C. Renner Petroleum tanker out of Crescent City spilled an estimated 800 to 1,200 gallons of diesel fuel on Dec. 12.

California Highway Patrol Sgt. Jeff Borgen, who was on-scene, estimated that 200 gallons were captured with berms, specialized booms and cloth-like underflow dams.

However, C. Renner boss Chris Renner said later, "We pulled back 300 gallons."

Fish and Wildlife lifted the one-day fishing ban Dec. 15 after the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment concluded that the spill represented "no likely threat to public health."

Diesel sheen resulted because heavy rains overwhelmed the berms, according to the department.

Fish and Wildlife responded to the accident in concert with Caltrans and with a contracted oil spill cleanup crew. The department said in a communiqué that the Oiled Wildlife Care Network activated a recovery team.

The accident remains under investigation and no official word has been issued

as to the cause. Renner said in a telephone interview Dec. 18 that rain was a contributing factor.

In a phone interview from his Crescent City office, Renner revised the initial spill estimate of 800 gallons, saying, "1,200 gallons was the total amount we lost. We pulled back some 300 gallons," versus the initial CHP recovery estimate of 200 gallons.

CHP identified the C. Renner driver as Zachariah Haddad, 24, who was proceeding north in a 2009 Peterbilt tractor trailer when he apparently lost control on a curve and tipped over.

Sgt. Borgen said in a phone interview Dec. 18 that CHP's investigative report probably will be completed this week. No charges were pending against Haddad at press time.

Renner said the truck's tanker capacity is 5,000 gallons and that Haddad was transporting about 4,000.

The company's routine pre-inspection showed no mechanical defects, Renner said, while the post-inspection revealed that one of the tires came off its bead, the edge of the tire that sits in the wheel. Air pressure keeps the bead seated in the wheel's groove.

Renner noted that the unseated bead could have resulted from the accident rather than causing it. There was no indication of a blowout as the cause, he said.

Central | Green bike lanes, center islands❖ **FROM A1**

pedestrian safety project, which will extend along Central Avenue from Anna Sparks Way to Hiller Road. Last week's reception from the McKMAC was a far cry from when the committee took up the project in early 2013, when Humboldt County Public Works was advocating for a continuous raised median with left-hand turn pockets. The median was strongly opposed by the McKMAC, which raised concerns about vehicle access to businesses and unanimously opposed the project.

After the median was shot down, Public Works took a different tack. Rather than coming to Mack Town with proposed designs, it enlisted community members to brainstorm what they wanted on Central Avenue. The department then held numerous meetings with the McK-

MAC to get its input on details of the plan.

"This is our sixth presentation?" asked Jillian Tilles, assistant engineer with public works, as she began her presentation Dec. 16.

"I quit counting," responded Public Works Director Tom Mattson.

"We're almost like family now," chimed in McKMAC Chair Ben Shepherd.

Working closely with the McKMAC and a local group called the McKinleyville Organizing Committee, Public Works created a project that everyone seems to support, at least based on last week's meeting.

The project includes green-colored bicycle lanes on Central Avenue from School Road to Hiller Road. Intersections will be outfitted with crosswalks with large, white piano key markings. There will be

radar feedback signs informing motorists of their speed.

The project includes three mid-block crossing islands, providing refuge for pedestrians wanting to cross the five-lane roadway. One island would be located between School and Sutter roads, another just north of Nursery Road and the third between Heartwood Drive and Holly Drive. The project would be paid for with an \$800,000 grant.

Mattson said that crosswalk improvements have been removed at School Road. A developer may be purchasing the property to the east. If that property is developed, the owner would need to pay for the crosswalk upgrades.

Escrow has yet to close on the property, so the possible buyer's name and project have yet to be publicly disclosed.

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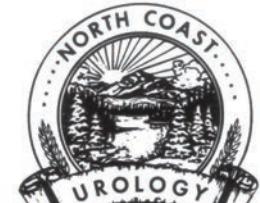
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Four central issues define the current cannabis debate

Cannabis conundrum

It has been very interesting to watch our community develop regulations for cannabis cultivation.

Whether we like it or not, cannabis cultivation is an intrinsic part of Humboldt County's culture and economy. Conservative estimates suggest the pot industry represents half of Humboldt's economy. Most of us believe that the real number is even higher than that.

It's also clear that cannabis cultivation creates a range of social and environmental problems. Many illegal and legal grows deplete our streams and introduce toxic herbicides, pesticides and rodenticides into our environment, poisoning water quality and harming sensitive species.

Already state agencies such as the regional water board are taking on these issues and Humboldt County is preparing to pass an ordinance to regulate grows as well.

This is an issue that clearly affects McKinleyville as much as every other community in the county. I propose that the McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee send a letter to the board of supervisors commenting on several aspects of the proposed ordinance. After careful review, discussions with growers, environmentalists, lawmakers, and local Tribal leaders, I think there are four main issues to address.

First, is about the water. Although I do not think the county can or should restrict anyone's adjudicated water right, I urge this body to consider recommending mandatory water forbearance mid-May thru the end of October as a prerequisite for any ministerial permit.

As the drought just taught us,

LETTER

even in this wetter corner of the state, we must work hard to protect in stream flows.

Second, I am convinced that the conversion of forest and timber lands to pot farms is a possible consequence of the coming green rush.

I suggest we recommend that the county require a conditional use permit for cultivation on TPZ lands. We need to protect our timber resources and many of these TPZ parcels are in sensitive watersheds.

Third, the proliferation of this industry should generate enough revenue such that our law enforcement and permit enforcement agency is adequately funded. Thus, the county should implement some sort of tax or revenue strategy for growers to maintain law enforcement.

Finally, we should limit the number of permits. The coming legalization of recreational cannabis use could result in a boom of growers. Already, it is estimated that there are grows on over 3,300 parcels in Humboldt County based on a survey by Lost Coast Outpost looking at satellite data. Some of these parcels host multiple grows.

I believe we should enter this pool on the shallow end. That is we should cap the number of permits, give it some time to see how things are going, and revisit the permit limit. As to what this number should be a good question for discussion, however I do not think we should double the number of grows immediately.

I look forward to a constructive conservation with you all.

Sincerely,
Craig Tucker
McKinleyville

At least we're finally rid of Warren

It seems to me there is a perceptible lightening of the Humboldt psyche resulting from the conviction of Jason Anthony Warren. More than three years after the murder of two women and attempted murder of two more, the jury found him guilty on all counts. The case has been an open wound in the community, which can finally begin to heal.

The evidence was described as overwhelming; the jury deliberated less than three hours. The combination of blameless victims and a long delay before trial gave this case an aura of injustice which resounded through the county.

When there is a widespread belief that the defendant is guilty, but no progress is made toward conviction, people feel cheated and uneasy.

There are multiple reasons it took so long to try this case. The court schedule in Humboldt County has been in disarray for years. A shortage of judges, a habit of holding jury trials just a few hours per day and other factors contributed to the problem.

The new court administrator may deserve part of the praise for getting things on a more stable footing. Greater public scrutiny following the public admonishment of a judge for long-delayed decisions probably also helped. Some people are convinced the new district attorney is responsible for speeding up prosecutions.

When a new boss takes over, there is often a reordering of priorities. Additional funding to the office from Measure Z has resulted in several frozen positions in that department being filled. Enemies of her predecessor continue to blame him for everything wrong about justice in the county, but the fact is that shrinking budgets forced him to make un-

popular decisions.

Warren isn't the only defendant to spend a long time coming to trial. Gary Lee Bullock is accused of killing a popular priest on New Years Day 2014. His trial has been postponed time after time for procedural reasons. Bullock's plea of not guilty by reason of insanity complicates everything.

Court-ordered evaluations were slow or didn't happen at all. The follow-up on that seems to have been lacking. They were ordered in March of this year, but by the end of September, only one of three had been completed and the report received.

One of the other experts was expected to submit a report by October 8, and the third had withdrawn from the case. It seems as if it shouldn't have taken nearly six months to discover that the evaluations weren't happening. Since Bullock remains in custody, the public is in no physical danger from him, but the community isn't entirely comforted by that.

The Bullock case caused considerable outrage in residents of downtown Eureka, because it highlighted a practice many of them hadn't known about. Bullock had been picked up by a Sheriff's deputy in Southern Humboldt on December 31 for acting weird and scaring people. He was transported to the jail and held until he appeared to have sobered up, then released in the middle of the night, without a cent.

Policies at the time called for people being released to be given a check for any cash they had when they were processed into the jail. Many people were convinced that the main reason Bullock murdered the priest was to steal his car, which he drove back to Southern Humboldt. Adding fuel to the controversy, another

man released late at night was found murdered just blocks away a few hours later.

Humboldt County Sheriff Mike Downey stated he was actually prohibited from holding inmates until daylight. I did some research at the time, and found there is no wide consensus on the subject. After a lot of talk, little changed.

But it intensified the perception of an innocent victim, brutally killed while minding his own business, asleep in his bed. His loss wasn't limited to his family, friends, parishioners and students. The community wanted justice to be served, and quickly.

On television, cases are resolved in 44 minutes. Never mind that it takes two weeks to film that episode. In real life, the process takes a lot longer.

That's not to say Humboldt County hasn't been lagging. No matter who was to blame, I'm glad to see improvement. The backlog of murder trials is beginning to be cleared.

Murder violates the sensation of security in a community, and unpunished murder leaves residents worried. Random murder of blameless victims unsettles people even more. A jail full of suspects doesn't provide the same sensation of justice as convictions do.

Meanwhile, the crisis at county mental health has become worse, and there is little hope of prompt improvement. It's no wonder the newly hired director of Health and Human services changed her mind before she even worked a day. But Warren is headed to prison for life, and that has to make a lot of people feel a little safer.

Elizabeth Alves is looking forward to more jury trials being moved through the pipeline. Comments and suggestions are welcome care of the Union or to mysidestreet@gmail.com.

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This advertisement funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) program.

DECEMBER 23, 2015



A CHRISTMAS CAROLING

MUSICAL MERRIMENT Holiday spirit rang out on the Plaza and environs Friday night as Christmas carolers invited by Arcata Main Street and led by members of the Arcata Interfaith Gospel Choir serenaded the square, then proceeded into Jacoby's Storehouse. Above, guitarist Bob Ebenstein leads the group in song. Top right, the carolers under the Grand Christmas Tree in Jacoby's Storehouse. Right, Plaza Grill diners are treated to songs of the season. arcatamainstreet.com.

PHOTOS COURTESY ARCATA MAIN STREET



Eating your way through the Scottish holidays, or, putting the hog in Hogmanay

This might make me the worst Jew ever, but I love Christmas. I love lights, I love warm sweaters, and I love getting stuff.

Frankly, I feel kind of cheated here in America because Christmas is just one lousy day. Back in my rakish youth, I lived in Edinburgh, Scotland for a few years, and across the pond they have grandiose ideas of what it means to celebrate the holidays. Maybe it's because at this time of year they only

get about four hours of daylight and drinking seems more socially acceptable if there's a Savior's birth to celebrate, but for the Scots, Christmas goes on unofficially for an entire week.

It starts with Christmas, which they do essentially like ours, except, oddly, with Brussels sprouts. But that's not the end! Oh no, far from it.

Dec. 26 is Boxing Day, so named because back in the good ol' days of a strong solid class system, 'twas the custom to give boxes of treats to one's servants and tradesmen. Not being fortunate enough to hobnob with the upper echelons of Edinburgh culture, I was forced along with rest of the hoi polloi to celebrate Boxing Day in the ordinary manner.

Boxing Day is a day in which everyone leaves their doors figuratively unlocked, and you go along from friend's house to friend's house, bearing small gifts, usually alcoholic, and sit in warm sitting rooms and eat Jaffa cakes and leftover plum pudding, and get fatter and fatter and talk about how drunk Uncle Charlie got last night. Hopefully there's a football match on to provide reprieve from endless small talk.

At this point, let me remind you, it's insanely cold outside, so it's a very cosy activity, seeing friends and loved ones and endless taking off and putting back on of furry coats and woolly jumpers. Finally, at about three o'clock in the afternoon, it's pitch black outside and you can stum-

ble home to watch *Eastenders* in bed and swear you'll never drink cider again.

Except. The next day. And the next, and the next and the next. There's a slight lessening of holiday fever as fruitcake torpor sets in, but generally speaking, this visiting-of-family-and-friends merry-go-round is expected to continue, relentlessly. You can almost hear the beating of slave ship drums as you trudge through the rain on Dec. 30 back to Auntie Mag's house *again*, because you really have to help her finish the goose and decide how insulting the size 22 muumuu she got from Karen was meant to be.

The 30th, actually, is as close to a reprieve as you get because you're meant to be saving up all the hysteria you can possibly muster for what is by far Scotland's biggest celebration, Hogmanay.

We like to call this day New Year's Eve,

which seems much more logical, but obviously I'm Americanly biased. Hogmanay is a much bigger deal than Christmas, possibly because in the heated days of the Protestants, Christmas was seen as gauchely pagan, so the overlords had to throw the people some kind of bone, and Hogmanay was it.

There are various customs all over Scotland to commemorate the New Year. My personal favorite is the fire-ball swinging, performed in the northeast. This event, always attended by thousands of watchers, involves building giant balls of chicken wire, stuffing them with flammables, setting them alight and swinging them wildly overhead until the presumably drunken ball-wielders reach the harbor and (hopefully) safely douse them in the icy waters.

Edinburgh, as a lowland city, is somewhat more restrained. The festivities, held

in the Royal Mile (the main promenade that leads to the castle) usually bring a half million visitors of so, and my blurry memories of my various Hogmanays involves much kissing of strangers. Fireworks are lit. The Scottish regiment up at the castle plays some raging bagpipes. Everyone sings *Auld Lang Syne*.

If food can possibly be eaten after the colossal amount of lager and whiskey consumed, it's traditionally steak pie. Some fail in their consumption; subsequent steak pie vomit can be spotted picturesquely lying amongst the snow.

The party continues inevitably to dawn, with essentially the whole city going mad. From what I saw, people, although drunk beyond comprehension, were reasonably law-abiding. It's a sort of carte-blanche night as far as the cops are concerned, within reason.

Finally, at whatever hour you can no longer stand, you struggle home and collapse into bed, hoping beyond hope that this holiday is done. Sometimes it is. You're meant to go out Jan. 1 and 2 both, doing yet more house visiting and eating of dainties, but if your hangover is bad enough you can beg off. Really, the holidays, or "Daft Days" as they used to be appropriately called, don't end until January Second.

So, my fellow Americans, the next time you complain that the holidays are so stressful and you can't get all your shopping in, just be thankful that we only have one stupid day in which we are expected to evince love and goodwill towards men. While you chew on that, here's a nice traditional Scottish holiday recipe in case you feel like pretending you don't live here for a minute.

I know prunes in soup might give you pause but a) they're traditional and b) they're surprisingly good. You want to try something different, right?

This is basically Martha's Stewart's recipe. I've tried several here at home, attempting to replicate what I ate there, and this is about the best.

Cock-a-Leekie Soup

BY MARTHA STEWART, BY WAY OF JADA BROTMAN

Ingredients

1 1/4 pounds skinless chicken thighs (on the bone; 4 pieces)
1 1/4 pounds skinless chicken breast halves (on the bone; 3 pieces)
7 cups chicken broth
2 cups white wine or water
2 large celery ribs, halved crosswise
1 large carrot, peeled
2 large garlic cloves, peeled
6 leeks, white and light-green parts only, halved lengthwise, thinly sliced crosswise
12 pitted prunes, quartered (2/3 cup packed)
1/2 cup barley
1/2 cup finely chopped parsley

Heat a 6-quart Dutch oven on medium-high until hot. Add thighs; cook until browned, turning once, about 8 minutes. Transfer to a bowl. Repeat with breasts.

Add broth, wine, celery, carrot and garlic to Dutch oven. Bring to a boil; scrape any browned bits from pot; return chicken to pot, reduce heat and simmer, skimming as necessary, for 1 hour. Transfer chicken to a plate; let cool. Transfer vegetables to another plate; reserve.

Add leeks, prunes, and barley to broth. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer until thick, about 40 minutes more. Once chicken has cooled, shred meat. Fine-dice carrot and celery. Stir chicken, carrot, celery, and parsley into soup, heat through, and serve.

If you make this soup ahead, you may need to add a bit of water or stock when reheating. Barley thickens.

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(to receive a certificate via mail by 12/25, please make your gift by 12/21)

The Moments That Make Christmas Special...

"Christmas is about carrying on family traditions. Every year, my Grandma gave me a Hallmark Keepsake Ornament. Now, I love hunting for the perfect ornament for friends and family and giving newlyweds and new babies their first ornament."

Libby Charlton
HR Manager

HUMBOLDT AREA FOUNDATION

Redwood Capital Bank

Redwood Capital Bank

Punky blues & soulful folk

ARCATA — CenterArts has some top-notch musical offerings next month, so book your tickets now. Some of the January shows include:

The Devil Makes Three

This unique band performs **Sunday, Jan. 24** at 8 p.m. in the West Gym at Humboldt State. Tickets are \$33 general admission, \$25 for students.

With a slightly punky perspective on vintage American blues, The Devil Makes Three is a breath of fresh musical air. Laced with elements of ragtime, country, folk and rockabilly, the critically praised, drummer-less trio — consisting of guitarist/frontman Pete Bernhard, stand-up bassist Lucia Turino and guitarist Cooper McBean — brings forth a genuine approach to acoustic music that is deeply steeped in rhythm.

Sourcing blues and throwing in fierce finger-picking guitar, a little slide, tenor banjo and rocking upright bass, The Devil Makes Three create a multi-spanned bridge between musical styles. Their vocal harmonies wind tightly around original songs and breathe life into favorite covers.

It all pours forth from a timeless pulse that pulls you to the past, flies you to the future and lands you on the dance floor. The three band members are from Vermont, where Bernhard and McBean played in a few rock and punk bands, but found their most exciting common ground in old blues and country-styled acoustic music.

When Bernhard and McBean caught up with Turino in Santa Cruz, she learned bass and the band was born. Since releasing their first album in 2002, The Devil Makes Three has played nationwide to raving, capacity crowds whose enthusiastic support has guaranteed the band a sizable and loyal following.

The Wood Brothers

Dubbed "masters of soulful folk" by *Paste*, The Wood Brothers perform on



ON SAX Ravi Coltrane

PHOTO FROM RAV

Little miracles in the seaside village

"The best portion of a good man's life is his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love."

— William Wordsworth

"Miracles happen everyday, change your perception of what a miracle is and you'll see them all around you."

— Jon Bon Jovi

A good friend often sends messages of inspiration and gratitude. This reminds me to mention one of this week's little miracles.

Every Christmas, Lions Club elves manage to install colored lights in the Memorial Lighthouse for all to enjoy.

Jason Richie, manager of Trinidad Bay Bed and Breakfast, and journalist Ted Pease noticed that they'd gone out. City Clerk Gabe Adams was on the case.

So was Tom Odom, retired contractor. He went inside the light-

house, found the difficulty, and fixed it on the spot.

Trinidad thanks the good people of the town for often unnoticed acts of kindness and of love.

Christmas Observances

Saints Martha and Mary Episcopal Church on Trinity Street will present carols on Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Festal Christmas Mass at 6 p.m.

Kathrin Burleson encourages all to join in. There is plenty of parking between the church and the school.

Nancy and Tom Sheen and Sharon Malm Read announce that the historic 1873 Holy Trinity Church will hold its Christmas Eve Mass on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m.

Small Works of Art

It's hard to top a work of art as a gift this time of year or in any season.



Small original and print art works, photographs and card reproductions are on view at Trinidad Art Gallery, Strawberry Rock Gallery, Trinidad Trading Company, Windan Sea, Moonstone Crossing, Bergeron, Eatery-Gallery, Seaside, Sunset Restaurant, Moonstone Grill, Lighthouse Grill and even Salty's. (WCA is closed until January.)

Some of your favorite local artists, Jeff Stanley, Susan Stephenson, Beverly Harper, Toni Magyar, Connie Butler, Larry Ulrich, the late Bill Daniels, Wendy Carney, Jim Welsh and many others can remind people on our gift lists of Trinidad's beauty all year around with a gift of art.

Merry Christmas.

You can email Patti at baycity@sonic.net.

Kick off the New Year with a fuzzy friend

We had a little holiday fun dressing up some of the Humboldt County Animal Shelter's longest canine residents in winter accessories! The dogs were such good sports and kept the scarves and antlers on as long as they could.

The shelter will be open until 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 24 (and Thursday, Dec. 31) for animal viewing or to drop off a last-minute holiday treat for the shelter dogs and cats. The kitties can always use canned food and toys and the dogs appreciate good quality chewy things, martingale collars in medium and large and squeaky tennis balls.

The shelter will be closed on Friday, Dec. 25, as well as Friday, Jan. 1. The Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday between Christmas and New Year are a nice relaxed time to come in and see the adoptable animals. Maybe a new friend is in the cards for you for 2016!

There have been quite a few new dogs added to the adoptable roll in the last week, including at least four small dogs. To see the most current available dogs and cats at the shelter, go to petharbor.com and choose the Humboldt County Sheriff's Animal Shelter. Follow the links to adoptable dogs or cats and you will see a current list of available animals. You can even register an interest in a certain breed or size on this site. When an animal of your selected type is available, an email will be sent to you.



Redwood Pals Rescue is busy getting ready for the New Year as well. We have an adorable litter of small terrier pups that will be ready to start viewing in the New Year. We will put some photos of them here next week. We've also been continuing to vaccinate puppies living in one of the homeless camps, as well as arranging spays and neuters for dogs there. And then there are the dogs that we have in fosters and in our homes while we help prepare them to be the best adoptable dogs that they can be. Grants cover a significant portion of our spay and neuter costs, but Redwood Pals pays for everything else.

If you are looking for a worthy end-of-the-year place for a tax-deductible donation, we would be happy to accept! Redwood Pals Rescue's mailing address is P.O. Box 2913, McKinleyville CA 95519. You can also email us at redwoodpalsrescue@gmail.com if you would like more information. Thank you and may your holidays be warm and happy!

HOSPICE OFFERS LOCAL GRIEF SUPPORT MEETINGS

Hospice of Humboldt offers free, drop-in grief support groups every week. Meeting times in Humboldt County include:

- Arcata: Mondays, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Jacoby Storehouse, 791 Eighth St., fourth floor conference room.
- Eureka: Wednesdays, 5:30 to 7 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 2:30 p.m.; Saturdays (Slipper Club – casual drop-in session), 9 to 10:30 a.m., all meetings at the Hospice office, 3327 Timber Fall Court.
- Fortuna: Wednesdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Brookdale Fortuna (Formerly Sequoia Springs), 2401 Redwood Way.
- McKinleyville: Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., Timber Ridge, 1400 Nursery Way.

For more information about services provided by Hospice of Humboldt's Grief Support Services, call (707) 267-9801 or visit hospiceofhumboldt.org

BECOME A MASTER PRESERVER Master Food Preservers are trained, dedicated volunteers who help educate the community about food safety and home food preservation using up-to-date, scientifically sound methods. If you enjoy preserving food, you may be interested in completing the Master Food Preserver Program through our local University of California Cooperative Extension Office. It will meet at the Northcoast Co-op Community Kitchen in Eureka on Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Monday evenings, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Classes will begin Feb. 7, and will be completed on March 7, with graduation ceremonies on March 9. An informational meeting for applicants will be held on Jan. 23. Fee for the training is \$150, and includes a food preservation book and training manual. Space is limited and the application deadline is Jan. 15. Applications are available at cehumboldt.ucdavis.edu. Call Deborah Giraud, Farm Advisor, at (707) 445-7351.

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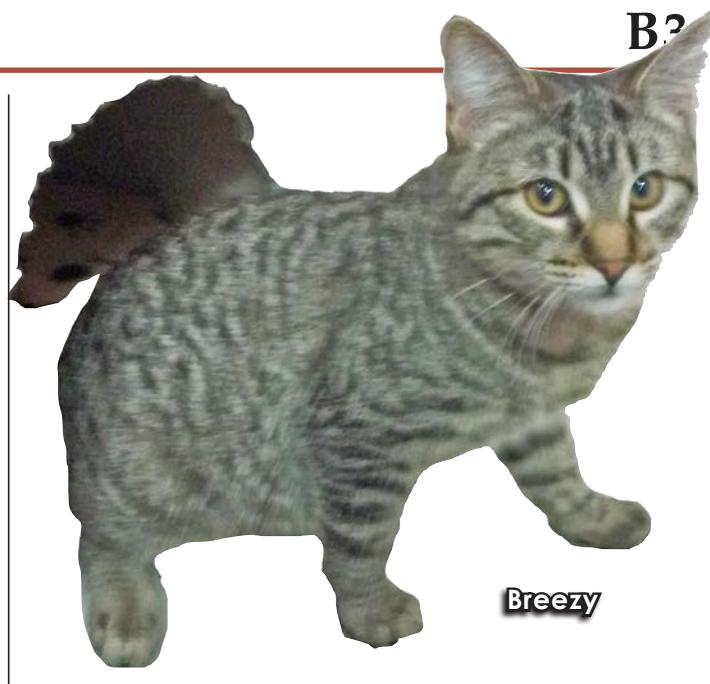
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Breezy

It's easy with Breezy

The middle of winter means the middle of storm season. It's time to take stock of your candles and flashlights, because the winds outside are howling. It's even a little breezy at Companion Animal Foundation. Or rather, there is a little cat named Breezy at Companion Animal Foundation.



Breezy and the rest of the adoptable animals at CAF have been spayed or neutered and are up to date on their vaccines.

Breezy is just turning three months old and has returned from a stay with our pet partner, Arcata Pet Supply, so recent visitors may want to stop by again to meet this frolicsome tabby kitten.

Breezy is happy to be back home in the adop-

tion room, but she would be even happier to find a home of her own. And after all, no storm preparation kit is complete without a friend to snuggle up with in front of the fire.

To learn more about them and the programs we offer, you can visit the thrift store at 88 Sunny Brea Center in Arcata, email cafanimals@gmail.com, visit cafanimals.org, check out Companion Animal Foundation on Facebook, or call (707) 826-7387.

DO YOUR WORKERS QUALIFY FOR CALFRESH? Sequoia Personnel Services (SPS) announced that they will continue to help employers help their employees see if they qualify for CalFresh through January 2016. SPS is in partnership with the Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services to reach out to community members through their employers in order to educate them about the CalFresh program and help them see if they qualify for benefits. For more information contact Michael Kraft, Senior Project Manager and Consultant at Sequoia Personnel Services, Inc. kraft@sequioapersonnel.com or (707) 445-9641.

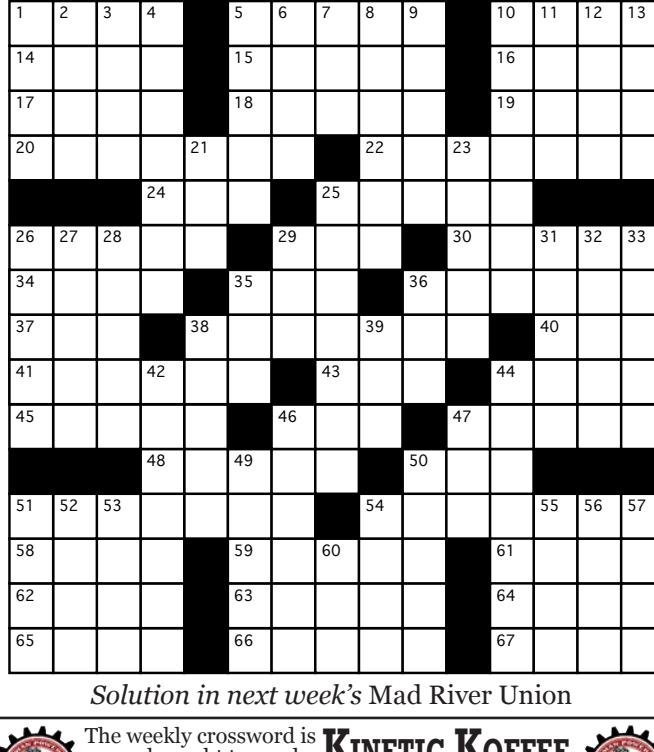
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Stinging insect
5. Part of a loaf
10. Male animal
14. Parts of intestines
15. Allude
16. Sticky strip
17. Plant part
18. Revere
19. Actress Moran
20. Ornamental tufts
22. Noble
24. Trauma ctrs.
25. Military award, often
26. British metric unit
29. Contraction
30. Narrow candle
34. Bustles
35. Curé d'__; St. John Vianney
36. Use a Kindle
37. __ favor; polite Spaniard's phrase
38. Foot problem
40. Mailman's beat: abbr.
41. Part of the foot
43. Suffix for class and cheer
44. Observes
45. Bar seat
46. Word with Red or White
47. Cubic meter
48. City in Italy
50. Brief life history
51. Unusual
54. Heavy, prolonged attack
58. Sandwich cookie
59. More positive
61. Beverage
62. Ludicrous
63. Occupation
64. Ms. Adams
65. Says no more
66. Look of contempt
67. High society misses

DOWN

1. Thin strand
2. Singing voice
3. Appear
4. Baby items
5. Stuff
6. Ruby and scarlet
7. Eerie saucer, for short
8. Strong fabrics
9. __ water; keep afloat
10. Outstanding
11. Skater Lipinski
12. Neat as __
13. Mannerly man
21. Gold or copper
23. In a while
25. Rural church
26. __ lazuli
27. "Frankly, my dear, __."
28. Incomplete sculpture
29. Prefix for pod or cycle
31. Make baby food
32. Organic compound
33. Pee Wee __
35. Part of a European range
36. __ person; apiece
38. Misrepresent
39. Okla.'s neighbor
42. Old word for athletic girls
44. Raged
46. One of the planets
47. Male title
49. Continues
50. Plainer
51. Leak out
52. Tarkenton or Drescher
53. __ off; resist
54. Venerable historian
55. Helpmate
56. Insincerely smooth
57. __ out a living; gets by
60. " __ Rae"; film for Sally Field



Solution in next week's Mad River Union

The weekly crossword is brought to you by **KINETIC KOFFEE**

Organic, fresh, local and available at Eureka Natural Foods, Murphy's Markets, the North Coast Co-op and Wildberries!

PUBLIC SAFETY

Couples collide in caustic conflict

• **Wednesday, December 2 11:09 a.m.**

A male suspect who arrived in a white four-door sedan broke into a storage shed behind Larrupin Cafe north of Trinidad. He pried a door open and filled a large bag with food items and booze. Investigators are reviewing video surveillance footage to identify the suspect.

4:02 p.m. Michelle Tappen allegedly kicked her ex-boyfriend real hard in the groin near Starbucks in McKinleyville, which resulted in a warrant being issued for her arrest. Tappen turned herself in and was booked into the county jail on suspicion of domestic violence.

• **Friday, December 4, 8:09 a.m.** In Orick, a gas cap was damaged when someone siphoned gas from a car.

• **Saturday, December 5 12:41 a.m.** A woman tried to end a relationship with her boyfriend, but he didn't take it well. He allegedly pulled her hair, hit her in the head, then drove to the Big Kmart parking lot, where he dumped her and all her belongings.

8:16 a.m. A green American Tourister suitcase with a pink floral print was found in the parking lot of the McKinleyville Ace Hardware. There was no information indicating who the suitcase belonged to.

11:14 a.m. Deputies investigated a suspicious vehicle on Rosebud Lane off Sutter Road in McKinleyville. Inside the car were Kelly Burns and Cierra Oscar. Burns was uncooperative and allegedly lied about his identity, even though he is on parole. Deputies searched him and found marijuana and a suspected meth pipe. Oscar's purse was searched. Inside, deputies found "pe-



tit" brass knuckles. The duo was arrested and taken to the county jail. Burns was booked on suspicion of giving false identification to a peace officer, possession of controlled substance paraphernalia, possession of marijuana and a warrant. Oscar was booked on suspicion of possession of metal knuckles and for two warrants.

• **Sunday, December 6 2:23 a.m.**

On a cold, dark night on Reasor Road in McKinleyville, a woman had a coughing fit in bed. This enraged her boyfriend, Joseph Krohn, who allegedly assaulted her then threw her out of the house. Deputies responded and arrested Krohn on suspicion of battery on a cohabitant and violation of probation. A restraining order is in place that allows Krohn to see his girlfriend but not engage in violence.

1:33 p.m. A man and woman got into a heated verbal argument on Lost Avenue in McKinleyville over the female half's failure to take her recommended dosage of Xanax.

5:04 p.m. A woman on School Road in McKinleyville was able to confirm that she made the right decision in evicting her roommate when she confronted her with the news. When Carolyn Brandy learned that she was going to have to move out, she allegedly held up an ax handle and told the roommate that she was going to "bash her fucking head in" and break her legs. The roommate left the premises for her own safety and called the Sheriff's Office. Brandy was arrested on suspicion of making terrorist threats and booked into

the county jail.

Maggie adds two more prosecutors

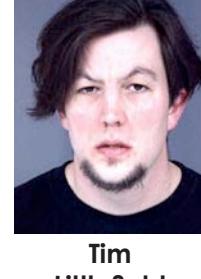
HUMBOLDT COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

HUMBOLDT – Humboldt County District Attorney Maggie Fleming last Friday announced the hiring of two new deputy district attorneys: Michael McDonald of Blue Lake and Jamie Murdock of Orange, Calif. Both will handle misdemeanor caseloads.

McDonald is a graduate of DePaul University and the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, Bowen School of Law. Murdock is a graduate of Central Washington Universi-

ty and Chapman University School of Law. Both have been working as law clerks in the Humboldt County D.A.'s Office. Murdock also clerked for the Orange County District Attorney's Office. These two positions were funded by Measure Z. The DA's Office now has 16 full-time deputy district attorneys.

As a result of the addition of positions through Measure Z, vacancies that existed at the start of the year and the departure of attorneys, Fleming has hired nine prosecutors this year.



Tim Littlefield

during jury deliberations. The trial court conducted a hearing during which the juror recanted the declaration, stating he had not personally written it nor read it carefully before signing it. Nevertheless, the trial court granted the motion for a new trial.

The appellate court reversed the trial court and found the juror's declaration irrelevant in assessing the validity of the verdict.

The appellate court further stated: "...we think the appro-

Trin man stabbed during fight he wasn't in

HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

TRINIDAD – On Tuesday, Dec. 15 at about 2:40 a.m. the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office received a call from a local business reporting a stabbing victim.

When deputies arrived, they spoke with the 41-year-old male victim.

The victim stated he was at the Ocean Grove Lounge in Trinidad when a physical altercation occurred between other

individuals at the lounge. The victim said that the altercation led outside to the front of the business, and the victim followed to watch the fight.

While he was watching the fight, one of the individuals in the fight was shoved into the crowd and collided with him. This is when the victim believed he was stabbed.

The deputy observed the male victim had significant stab wounds to his person. The vic-

tim was unable to provide a description of the suspect, other than he was a male adult. The victim is in stable condition.

When Sheriff's Office deputies arrived at the lounge, it was closed and there were no persons in the area.

Anyone with information regarding this case or related criminal activity is asked to call the Sheriff's Office at (707) 445-7251 or the Sheriff's Office Crime Tip line at (707) 268-2539.

Littlefield verdict upheld by appeals court

HUMBOLDT COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

HUMBOLDT – On Tuesday, Dec. 15, the First Appellate District of the State of California, Division One, reversed the Humboldt County Superior Court ruling in People v. Timothy Littlefield which granted the defendant a new trial.

In 2013 a jury found the defendant guilty of all charges related to his sexual misconduct with a child under 10 years of age.

The defense filed a motion for a new trial based on a declaration by a juror that addressed his mental processes

priate remedy is not to affirm the order setting aside the verdict based solely on irrelevant evidence and speculation about what defendant could have proved, but to remand for further proceedings to determine whether relevant and admissible evidence of jury misconduct actually exists."

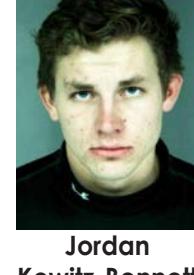
The District Attorney's Office is requesting that the hearing outlined by the Court of Appeals be completed as soon as the trial court is available.

Two men found armed at mall

EUREKA POLICE

EUREKA – On Wednesday, Dec. 16 at about 11:15 p.m., an officer with the Eureka Police Department made contact with a parked Dodge pickup and its two occupants in the overflow parking lot north of the Bayshore Mall. During the contact, Maggie the drug detection K9, alerted to the odor of controlled substances.

Officers detained the two male occupants and conducted a lawful search of the vehicle. Under the hood, officers located a loaded



AR-15 rifle, loaded high capacity magazines, and additional ammunition. A small amount of marijuana was found inside the vehicle.

The two were arrested and jailed. Larry Boone, 42, and Jordan Kowitz-Bennet, 22, both of the Sacramento area, were booked on suspicion of possession of a loaded firearm in a public place, possession of an assault weapon and transport of an assault weapon. Boone had an additional charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

If the IRS calls demanding money right now, it's a scammer on the line

HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

HUMBOLDT – The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office has received at least 15 phone calls per day from the public within the last week who are reporting a phone scam.

The suspects are telling the potential victims they are an agent with the Internal Revenue Service or the U.S. Treasury and they owe the IRS money.

The suspects then tell the victim if they fail to immediately pay they will obtain a warrant for the victim's arrest.

The suspects attempt to get the victim to obtain a money order, cashier's check or red dot card to pay the overdue bill.

So far none of the potential victims have complied with the suspects' demands.

Some helpful websites:

irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/IRS-Warns-of-Pervasive-Telephone-

treasury.gov/tigta/contact_report_scam.shtml

consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0076-phone-scams

Notes from IRS press release:

Other characteristics of this scam include:

- Scammers use fake names and IRS badge numbers.

They generally use common names and surnames to identify themselves.

- Scammers may be able to recite the last four digits of a victim's Social Security Number.

- Scammers spoof the IRS toll-free number on caller ID to make it appear that it's the IRS calling.

- Scammers sometimes send bogus IRS emails to some victims to support their bogus calls.

- Victims hear background noise of other calls being conducted to mimic a call site.

- After threatening victims with

jail time or driver's license revocation, scammers hang up and others soon call back pretending to be from the local police or DMV, and the caller ID supports their claim.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, here's what you should do:

- If you know you owe taxes or you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS at 1-(800) 829-1040.

The IRS employees at that line can help you with a payment issue – if there really is such an issue.

- If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to think that you owe any taxes (for example, you've never received a bill or the caller made some bogus threats as described above), then call and report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-(800) 366-4484.

- If you've been targeted by this

scam, you should also contact the Federal Trade Commission and use their "FTC Complaint Assistant" at FTC.gov. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of your complaint.

Notes from the Federal Trade Commission

Often, scammers who operate by phone don't want to give you time to think about their pitch; they just want you to say "yes." But some are so cunning that, even if you ask for more information, they seem happy to comply.

They may direct you to a website or otherwise send information featuring "satisfied customers."

These customers, known as shills, are likely as fake as their praise for the company.

Here are a few red flags to help you spot telemarketing scams. If you hear a line that sounds like this, say "no, thank you," hang up, and file a complaint with the FTC:

- You've been specially selected (for this offer).

- You'll get a free bonus if you buy our product.

- You've won one of five valuable prizes.

- You've won big money in a foreign lottery.

- This investment is low risk and provides a higher return than you can get anywhere else.

- You have to make up your mind right away.

- You trust me, right?

- You don't need to check our company with anyone.

- We'll just put the shipping and handling charges on your credit card.

Anyone with information for the Sheriff's Office regarding this case or related criminal activity is encouraged to call the Sheriff's Office at (707) 445-7251 or the Sheriff's Office Crime Tip line at (707) 268-2539.

Record number of students apply for Humboldt State

HUMBOLDT STATE

HUMBOLDT STATE — The number of prospective students who applied to Humboldt State University climbed to 12,742, marking a 2.8 percent increase over last year's tally of 12,390.

Of those applicants, 43 percent were Latino/a students. Additionally, 3,619 transfer students applied to HSU, up from 3,220 last year.

"Humboldt State University continues to be an attractive institution for California residents seeking post-secondary degrees," said Associate Director of Admissions Steven Ladwig. "We're pleased that so many prospective students understand the value of an HSU degree, and we're excited to be an important part of educating the state's future leaders."

System-wide, the CSU received a record setting number of applications for the eighth year in a row. More than 830,000 students applied to the 23-campus system, marking a 4.8 percent increase over last year's total.

While demand for a CSU education is at an all-time high, capacity issues persist due to state funding limitations. For the 2016-17 academic year, the governor's proposal allocates an additional \$139.4 million investment to the CSU, which will fund a 1 percent net student en-

rollment growth.

In order for the university to continue to address the anticipated shortage of bachelor's degrees in California by 2030, a 3 percent net student enrollment growth is needed, requiring an additional \$102.3 million in state funding. Fully funding CSU's proposed Support Budget Request would allow the university to enroll approximately 12,600 additional students.

The CSU remains a state leader in producing job-ready graduates, and an investment in the CSU is an investment in California's economic and social future. As Chancellor Timothy P. White said, "The CSU does much of the heavy lifting required to build an educated workforce in California and it's something that we're incredibly honored to be a part of."

The priority deadline for first-time freshmen and transfer California students applying to HSU has passed. The campus does, however, continue to accept applications from out-of-state and students who are veterans, as well as upper-division transfer students from College of the Redwoods.

For more information, contact Steven Ladwig at (707)826-6221 or steven.ladwig@humboldt.edu. For more information on applying to the CSU, visit csumentor.com.

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Answers to last week's crossword

Domoic acid levels still high in crabs

Jack Durham

MAD RIVER UNION

CALIFORNIA COAST — Last week's Northern California tests of Dungeness crab for domoic acid show mixed results, with toxin levels actually higher in two locations, and at safe levels at another location. The tests indicate that it may be a long time before the season opens.

The California Department of Public Health has set the action level for domoic acid at more than 30 parts per million. Anything greater than this level is deemed unsafe.

The neurotoxin, which is in the meat of the crabs, can make people sick, cause brain damage and even death depending on the amount consumed. Its existence in crabs has halted the season.

Tests results were posted Dec. 14 on a CDPH website. Here are the three results:

• Six crabs were plucked in the Bodega Bay area near the Russian River area. The domoic acid levels ranged from 6.5 to 100 ppm. The average level was 43.6 ppm, well above the 30 ppm threshold. 83 percent of the crabs exceeded the safety level. This test shows an increase in domoic acid compared to a test done on Dec. 1, when the average level was 22 ppm, with 17 percent of

crabs exceeding the safety threshold.

• Near Half Moon Bay, nine crabs were plucked, with levels ranging from 2.5 to 49 ppm. The average level was 20.7 ppm, with 33 percent of crabs exceeding the safety threshold. This is an increase from the Dec. 1 test, when the average level was 8.9 ppm with 10 percent of crabs over the threshold.

Keep in mind that in order to harvest and sell the crab, test results have to show levels below the safety threshold of 30 ppm with zero percent of the crabs exceeding that level.

As of last weekend, no test results for Eureka or Trinidad have been posted since November.

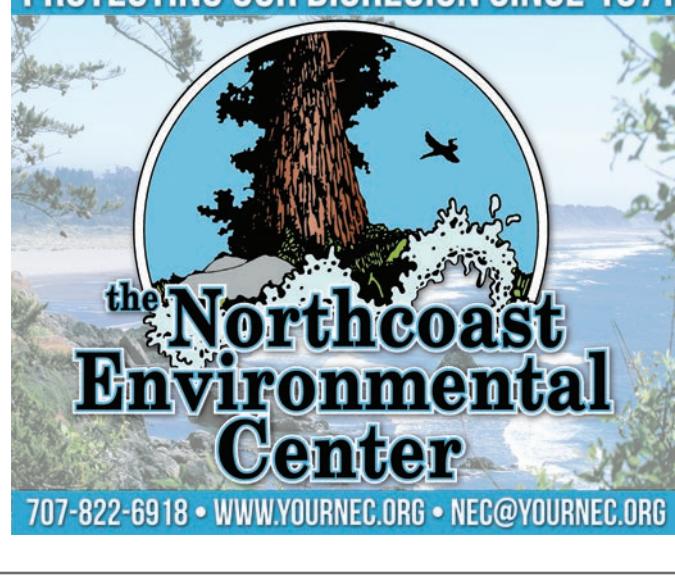
Crabs plucked off the coast near the Eel River on Nov. 23 showed domoic acid levels from 13 to 59 ppm, with the average level at 34.6 ppm. 50 percent of crabs tested exceeded the safety level.

On Nov. 17, 15 crabs were plucked near Trinidad. Levels were 17 to 65 ppm, with an average of 36 ppm. Sixty percent were unsafe.

YEAR-END WIN The Humboldt State women's basketball team pulled away down the stretch and closed out 2015 with a non-conference win over Great Northwest Athletic Conference opponent Western Oregon. The Lumberjacks (6-5, 3-1) climbed above the .500 mark for the first time this season after defeating Western Oregon (1-9, 0-2) on Saturday night, Dec. 19, 65-56. The Jacks are now off for the remainder of December before returning to California Collegiate Athletic

Association competition to start the new year.

STATE CHAMPIONS! St. Bernard's Crusaders won the state Division V-A championship Saturday, Dec. 19, beating Saddleback Valley Christian 28-21 during a rainy game at Laguna Hills High School in Southern California. The Crusaders are the first ever team from the North Coast to play for a CIF state championship. The team is coached by Matt Tomlin.



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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

15-00653

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
PACIFIC OUTFITTERS
1600 5TH STREET
EUREKA, CA 95501
PACIFIC MARINE
ENGINEERING C0556277
1600 5TH STREET
EUREKA, CA 95501
This business is conducted by: A Corporation
S/SCOTT OSTROM, PRESIDENT

This statement was filed with the Humboldt County Clerk on Nov. 13, 2015

KELLY E. SANDERS

A.ABRAM DEPUTY

12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

15-00695

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
(1) ARCATA REAL ESTATE SERVICES
(2) NORTH COAST PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

791 8TH STREET SUITE 14
ARCATA, CA 95521
NORTH COAST REAL ESTATE

791 8TH STREET SUITE 14
ARCATA, CA 95521
This business is conducted by: A Corporation
S/DARRELL BURLISON, PRESIDENT

This statement was filed with the Humboldt County Clerk on DEC 11, 2015

KELLY E. SANDERS

M. MORRIS DEPUTY

12/16, 12/23, 12/30, 1/6, 1/13

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

15-00698

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
ADVANCED SECURITY SYSTEMS

1336 FOURTH STREET
EUREKA, CA 95501
PETRUSHA ENTERPRISES, INC.

1336 FOURTH STREET
EUREKA, CA 95501
D1601678

This business is conducted by: A corporation
S/A CHARLES PETRUSHA - PRESIDENT

This statement was filed with the Humboldt County Clerk on DEC 2, 2015

KELLY E. SANDERS

A.ABRAM DEPUTY

12/23, 12/30, 1/6, 1/13

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

15-00680

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
JOHNSTON DESIGN SYSTEMS

1336 FOURTH STREET
EUREKA, CA 95501
PETRUSHA ENTERPRISES, INC.

1336 FOURTH STREET
EUREKA, CA 95501
D1601678

This business is conducted by: A corporation
S/A CHARLES PETRUSHA - PRESIDENT

This statement was filed with the Humboldt County Clerk on DEC 16, 2015

KELLY E. SANDERS

A.ABRAM DEPUTY

12/23, 12/30, 1/6, 1/13

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

15-00704

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
JOHNSTON DESIGN SYSTEMS

1336 FOURTH STREET
EUREKA, CA 95501
PETRUSHA ENTERPRISES, INC.

1336 FOURTH STREET
EUREKA, CA 95501
D1601678

This business is conducted by: A corporation
S/A CHARLES PETRUSHA - PRESIDENT

This statement was filed with the Humboldt County Clerk on DEC 16, 2015

KELLY E. SANDERS

A.ABRAM DEPUTY

12/23, 12/30, 1/6, 1/13

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

15-00706

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
EASY CALL

1336 FOURTH STREET
EUREKA, CA 95501
PETRUSHA ENTERPRISES, INC.

1336 FOURTH STREET
EUREKA, CA 95501
D1601678

This business is conducted by: A corporation
S/A CHARLES PETRUSHA - PRESIDENT

This statement was filed with the Humboldt County Clerk on DEC 2, 2015

KELLY E. SANDERS

A.ABRAM DEPUTY

12/23, 12/30, 1/6, 1/13

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

15-00707

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
HUMBOLDT HARVEST

2355 CENTRAL AVE.
#123
MCKINLEYVILLE, CA
95519

HUMBOLDT HARVEST FARMS

3816323
2355 CENTRAL AVE.
#123
MCKINLEYVILLE, CA
95519

This business is conducted by: A corporation
S/ESTHER BENEMANN CEO/PRESIDENT

This statement was filed with the Humboldt County Clerk on DEC 16, 2015

KELLY E. SANDERS

A.ABRAM DEPUTY

12/23, 12/30, 1/6, 1/13

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

15-00708

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
HUMBOLDT HARVEST

2355 CENTRAL AVE.
#123
MCKINLEYVILLE, CA
95519

HUMBOLDT HARVEST FARMS

3816323
2355 CENTRAL AVE.
#123
MCKINLEYVILLE, CA
95519

This business is conducted by: A corporation
S/ESTHER BENEMANN CEO/PRESIDENT

This statement was filed with the Humboldt County Clerk on DEC 16, 2015

KELLY E. SANDERS

A.ABRAM DEPUTY

12/23, 12/30, 1/6, 1/13

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Hike or paddle at Humboldt Lagoons on New Year's Day

TRINIDAD – California Department of Parks and Recreation, Patrick's Point Sector will sponsor a free, guided hike or paddle in Humboldt Lagoons State Park on New Year's Day as part of America's State Parks First Day Hikes initiative in all 50 states.

Join California State Parks to celebrate the New Year with First Day Hikes across the state on Jan. 1, 2016.

The past two years Humboldt Lagoons State Park made history by offering the nation's very first (and second) paddle option for this annual event.

Rejuvenate by taking a family-friendly trek through a local state park close to home!

Be ready to launch or hike at 11 a.m.

Paddle

Meet at the Stone Lagoon Visitor Center at 115336 Highway 101, Trinidad with your kayak, stand-up-paddleboard or canoe and gear.

You also have the option of renting a sit-on-top kayak from Kayak Zak's at half price for this event. Wetsuits and gear will be available at regular prices.

Please call in advance for rental reservations. All participants must wear a properly fitted life jacket.

Join the ranger-led paddle or ex-

plore on your own.

This paddle is approximately four miles round-trip. Wear clothing and shoes that can get wet. All ages are encouraged.

Difficulty: Easy.

Hike

Meet at the Dry Lagoon Parking Lot at 11 a.m.

This guided interpretive walk will begin along the beach and then head inland following the trail around the back of Sharp Point to Stone Lagoon. Hikers will meet up with the paddling party for lunch and to celebrate the reopening of Ryan's Cove Campground before heading back to Dry Lagoon.

This hike is approximately five miles round-trip and includes some gradient. Wear comfortable hiking shoes. The trail may be damp.

Difficulty: Moderate.

Heavy wind or rain will cancel.

All participants should bring layered clothing, lunch and drinking water.

Bonus: All participants are eligible to win one of 10 new life jackets in a free raffle drawing!

For more information, contact Keven Harder at (707) 845-6171 or keven.harder@parks.ca.gov.

For kayak or gear rentals, contact Kayak Zak's at (707) 498-1130 or info@kayakzak.com.

FOAM CHRISTMAS DAY HIKE Join Friends of the Arcata Marsh (FOAM) for what may become a new holiday tradition. On Christmas Day, **Friday, Dec. 25**, Jane and Richard Wilson will lead a Marsh walk. Meet at 10 a.m. in the Klopp Lake parking lot at the end of South I Street. All ages and walking speeds are welcome for this 90-minute tour. Rain cancels. 822-3475.

AUDUBON MARSH HIKE Redwood Region Audubon Society is sponsoring a free public field trip at the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary on **Saturday, Dec. 26**. Bring your binoculars and meet leader Ken Burton in the parking lot at the end of South I Street

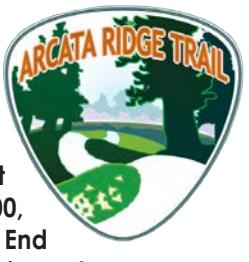
(Klopp Lake) in Arcata at 8:30 a.m., rain or shine. Trip ends around 11 a.m.

FOAM MARSH HIKE Friends of the Arcata Marsh (FOAM) is sponsoring a free tour of the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary on **Saturday, Dec. 26** at 2 p.m. Meet leader Milt Boyd at the Interpretive Center on South G Street for a 90-minute walk focusing on the ecology of the Marsh. Loaner binoculars available with photo ID. (707) 826-2359

SLOW-SPEED MARSH HIKE Friends of the Arcata Marsh (FOAM) is sponsoring a free tour for those who love the Marsh and want to enjoy it at a slower pace **Tuesday, Dec. 28** at 2 p.m. The



USER FRIENDLIER Two far-flung, eco-awesome Arcata locations have received an upgrade. At McDaniel Slough, left, a majestic new pedestrian footbridge crafted by nearby Johnson Industries offers "another bit of terrain to explore" near the west pond, according to Environmental Services Director Mark Andre. Resurfaced trails and new benches are further improvements. The path will eventually reach State Route 255 via a new crossing on South I Street, eliminating unpleasant road walking, and include traffic calming features. The bridge cost about \$13,000, paid for with a Coastal Conservancy grant. Meanwhile, way up north at the West End Road entrance to the Arcata Ridge Trail, city Forest Technicians Nick Manfredonia and Javier Noguiera beam with pride at the newly installed information kiosk. PHOTOS COURTESY CITY OF ARCATA



Quarry | Reclaimed

FROM A1

Extension. "It's been a process, whenever we have material," Andre said.

Hundreds of conifers and alders have been replanted on the newly contoured soil. Ten acres have been restored, he said, "with just a couple left to go."

Originally, the quarry was to have been operated by a licensed operator in exchange for reclamation work. But the neighborhood has since become populated with residences whose occupants would be disturbed by industrial activity.

Access via Jacoby Creek Road traverses private land. Use over the summer for the latest bout

of reclamation drew some complaints, but the city and community members collaborated on re-rocking the road to mitigate impacts. "I think the road got a pretty good upgrade," Andre said.

Eventually the quarry will be decommissioned by the Bureau of Mines, saving the city "a couple thousand" in annual permits.

"This is a classic thing," Andre said. "The western U.S. has a legacy of mining operations where they left a toxic leachfield, or unnatural-looking piles of slag and steep cliff faces. But we put it back to natural-looking condition in this case, so that trees could regrow."

The city may still pluck the occasional boulder from the disappearing quarry for use in city projects around town.



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tour will last 45 to 60 minutes across even, level ground and is suitable to attendees of all ages. Meet leader Jane Wilson at the first parking lot on South I Street in from Samoa Boulevard. This tour is held the last Tuesday of each month. (707) 826-2359

NEW YEAR'S DAY MARSH HIKE Welcome the New Year with a nature ramble through the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary. Meet leaders Jane and Richard Wilson on **Friday, Jan. 1** at 10 a.m. in the first parking lot on South I Street from Samoa Boulevard. This 1.5-hour rain-or-shine walk is sponsored by Friends of the Arcata Marsh (FOAM). (707) 826-2359



Proceeds to benefit Kevin Hoover's 2016 Pacific Crest Trail charity hike.

More details at crushallboxes.blogspot.com

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